

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A tethered toy assembly, comprising:

a tether having a first end and a second end;

a toy coupled to said first end of said tether;

a safety connector disposed between said first end and said second end of said tether, said safety connector separating said tether into parts when said tether experiences a force in excess of a predetermined maximum force.

2. The assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said tether has a first section and a second section, and said safety connector has a first half and a second half, wherein said first section of said tether is connected to said first half of said safety connector and said second section of said tether is connected to said second half of said safety connector.

3. The assembly according to Claim 2, wherein said first half of said safety connector separates from

said second half of said safety connector when said tether experiences a force in excess of a predetermined maximum force.

4. The assembly according to Claim 3, wherein said first half of said safety connector and said second half of said safety connector can be selectively reconnected once separated.

5. The assembly according to Claim 3, wherein said first half of said safety connector separates from said second half of said safety connector when said safety connector experiences a force in tension that exceeds a predetermined maximum tension force.

6. The assembly according to Claim 5, wherein said first half of said safety connector separates from said second half of said safety connector when said safety connector experiences a bending force that exceeds a predetermined maximum bending force.

7. The assembly according to Claim 6, wherein said maximum tension force is greater than said maximum bending force.

8. The assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said tether is elastic.

9. The assembly according to Claim 8, wherein said toy is a ball.

10. A method of severing a tether into multiple pieces when the tether wraps around an object, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a safety connector having a first half and a second half that can be selectively interconnected, wherein said first half and said second half disconnect when a predetermined force is applied to said safety connector; and

connecting said first half of said connector to a first section of said tether and connecting said second half of said connector to a second section of said tether, wherein said first section of said tether separates from said second section of said tether when said safety connector experiences said predetermined force.

11. The method according to Claim 10, wherein said first half of said safety connector separates from said second half of said safety connector when said safety connector experiences a force in tension that exceeds a predetermined maximum tension force.

12. The method according to Claim 11, wherein said first half of said safety connector separates from said second half of said safety connector when said safety connector experiences a bending force that exceeds a predetermined maximum bending force.

13. The assembly according to Claim 12, wherein said maximum tension force is greater than said maximum bending force.

14. A safety connector device for use along a tether, said device comprising:

    a first section defining a recess, said first section being symmetrically formed around a first axis;

    a second section defining a protrusion, said second section being symmetrically formed around a second axis, wherein said recess of said first

section selectively receives and engages said protrusion of said second section, thereby interconnecting said first section to said second section; and

wherein said protrusion of said second section disengages and separates from said recess in said first section when said first section and said second section are oriented so that said first axis is not linearly aligned with said second axis.

15. The device according to Claim 14, wherein said first section and said second section form a cylindrical structure when interconnected.

16. The device according to Claim 15, wherein said cylindrical structure has a length of at least one inch.

17. The device according to Claim 15, further including pins extending through said first section and said second section for joining said first section and said second section to separate segments of a tether.